

Article 32c(ii) of the Code states that 'incorrect transliteration or latinization ... are not to be considered inadvertent errors'. Consequently, we would rather follow Kobelt's 1875 statement (see BZN 48: 27, para. 3) that the spelling *Laiocochlis* was intended by Dunker & Metzger. In view of the usage of *Laiocochlis* or *Laiochochlis* by many modern European, Japanese and Russian authors, we conclude that stabilizing the spelling *Laiocochlis* would serve best the interest of nomenclatural stability. We believe that the Commission should not be concerned with the valid name of the type species of the genus but in any case proposal (3) on BZN 48: 28 should be dropped.

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Comment on the proposed conservation of the specific name of *Mitobates conspersus* (Perty, 1833) (Arachnida, Opiliones)

(Case 2759; see BZN 48: 105–106)

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The specific name *triangulus* Sundevall, 1833 (April) is that of the type species of *Mitobates*, described in the same paper, and it has priority over *conspersum* Perty, 1833 (December). The only reason to conserve *conspersum* is that since 1879 it has wrongly been considered to be the senior synonym, and there is no indication that the application of priority will cause confusion, unless there are further arguments.

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Dr L.B. Holthuis has asked for further information to justify the conservation of *conspersus* (Perty, December 1833) by suppression of *triangulus* Sundevall, published eight months earlier but never used as a senior synonym. As mentioned in my application (para. 3) since 1879 *conspersus* had been taken to be senior.

One of the references previously cited (Soares & Soares, 1949) is the prime reference for the GONYLEPTIDAE, and another (Mello-Leitão, 1932) is a monograph on Brazilian Opiliones, and both used *conspersus*. As stated in the application, Perty's type material of *conspersus* is available in the Berlin Museum, while Sundevall's article was very brief, with no illustrations or indication of deposition of any type material, and the information provided by him is inadequate to identify his species with certainty. When describing the new subfamily MITOBATINAE Simon (1879) regarded *M. conspersus* as the typical mitobatine.

Although the literature on Neotropical harvestmen is very sparse *conspersus* has been treated as the valid name of the type species since long ago and I think the resurrection of *triangulus* would be undesirable.

Comment on the proposed conservation of *Rhinapion* Beguin-Billecocq, 1905 (Insecta, Coleoptera)

(Case 2757; see BZN 48: 135–136)

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In a letter forwarded by the Executive Secretary, Dr L.B. Holthuis (*Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden, The Netherlands*) has referred to *Rhinapion* Beguin-Billecocq, 1905 as a 'perhaps rather unimportant generic name, the loss of which would not cause much inconvenience', and has asked what would be the valid name for the genus (or subgenus) if it were not conserved.

My general view on priority (see BZN 47: 213–214) follows that expressed recently by Ng (BZN 48: 87–91), and it is clear that the older a synonym used as valid the less are the chances of finding a yet more senior name. Thus the Principle of Priority improves stability.

However, there is no known synonym or replacement name of *Rhinapion* Beguin-Billecocq. It would have been possible to write a short paper inventing a replacement name, but it would have taken just as much time and effort as writing the application, and in future a senior synonym of the new name might have been found. There are users of nomenclature who do not want to learn new names of taxa which are familiar to them. Also, from an ethical point of view, I wonder whether we have a right to cross out with one stroke of the pen the work of a former zoologist. With regard to the 'importance' of *Rhinapion* Beguin-Billecocq, I have found new species of economic interest in material sent by applied entomologists. It may be that species of *Rhinapion* are as numerous and injurious as those of *Piezotrachelus*.